

Mr. Speaker, this trip was historic in that Major McAllister and his crew became the first persons ever to land at the South Pole so soon after an antarctic winter. I know a little bit about the dangers faced by the members of the 109th, Mr. Speaker, because I have traveled with them both to the North Pole and to the South Pole. Of course, when I went with them, it was in the middle of the Antarctic summer, which is our winter. So when I was there in January of 1994 it was a balmy 40 degrees below zero. But in the Antarctic winter, the record low temperature is 128 degrees below zero. A complex piece of machinery like a C-130 cannot operate in that kind of temperature.

But Major McAllister and his crew went in as soon as possible, rescued Dr. Nielsen, and Dr. Nielsen is now receiving the treatment that she needs.

So on this particular occasion, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for allowing us to consider this resolution, and I would like, Mr. Speaker, just to mention the names of those who comprised that lifesaving crew.

They are Pilot Major George R. McAllister, Jr.; Senior Mission Commander Colonel Marion G. Pritchard; Co-pilot Major David Koltermann; Navigator Lieutenant Colonel Brian M. Fennessy; Engineer Chief Master Sergeant Michael T. Cristiano; Loadmasters, Senior Master Sergeant Kurt A. Garrison and Technical Sergeant David M. Vesper; Flight Nurse Major Kimberly Terpening; and Medical Technicians Chief Master Sergeant Michael Casatelli and Master Sergeant Kelly McDowell.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for this opportunity to salute these true American heroes, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this joint resolution.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McNULTY. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY), for bringing this resolution.

As a former member of the New York Air National Guard, I have had an opportunity to look at our airlift units across the State. Time and time again they have been called for emergency or war, and have served gallantly, taking on the responsibilities that have been assigned them.

As the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) has indicated, this has been a very difficult mission to rescue Dr. Nielsen, who is a native of New York, in the aspect of bringing her back from the South Pole. Those who followed this as the mission was planned and then executed, and the history of it after it was completed, clearly saw the risk and danger that the men and women found themselves in as

they were deployed to the South Pole in such tough winter conditions.

As a matter of fact, the mission was postponed for months until the weather was at a point they could land on the South Pole.

So to the 109th Airlift Wing, our congratulations, and to our colleague for bringing it forward.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 205

Whereas the 109th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard is based at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Glenville, New York;

Whereas the 109th was called upon by the United States Antarctic Program to undertake a medical evacuation mission to the South Pole to rescue Dr. Jerri Nielsen, a physician who diagnosed herself with breast cancer;

Whereas the 109th is the only unit in the world trained and equipped to attempt such a mission;

Whereas the 10 crew members were pilot Maj. George R. McAllister Jr., senior mission commander Col. Marion G. Pritchard, co-pilot Maj. David Koltermann, navigator Lt. Col. Bryan M. Fennessy, engineer Ch. M. Sgt. Michael T. Cristiano, loadmasters Sr. M. Sgt. Kurt A. Garrison and T. Sgt. David M. Vesper, flight nurse Maj. Kimberly Terpening, and medical technicians Ch. M. Sgt. Michael Casatelli and M. Sgt. Kelly McDowell;

Whereas the crew departed Stratton Air Base for McMurdo Station in Antarctica via Christchurch, New Zealand, on October 6, 1999;

Whereas on October 15, 1999, Aircraft No. 096 departed McMurdo for the South Pole, where the temperature was approximately -53 degrees Celsius;

Whereas Major McAllister piloted a 130,000 pound LC-130 Hercules cargo plane equipped with Teflon-coated skis to a safe landing on an icy runway with visibility barely above minimums established for safe operations;

Whereas less than 25 minutes later, following an emotional goodbye and brief medical evaluation, Dr. Nielsen and the crew headed back to McMurdo Station;

Whereas the mission lasted 9 days and covered 11,410 nautical miles; and

Whereas Major McAllister became the first person ever to land on a polar ice cap at this time of year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and honors the crew of the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing for its heroic efforts in rescuing Dr. Jerri Nielsen from the South Pole.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone fur-

ther proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on a postponed question will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

ELIM NATIVE CORPORATION LAND RESTORATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3090) to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to restore certain lands to the Elim Native Corporation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3090

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIM NATIVE CORPORATION LAND RESTORATION.

Section 19 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1618) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

“(A) approximately 350,000 acres of land were withdrawn by Executive Orders in 1917 for the use of the United States Bureau of Education and of the Natives of Indigenous Alaskan race;

“(B) these lands comprised the Norton Bay Reservation (later referred to as Norton Bay Native Reserve) and were set aside for the benefit of the Native inhabitants of the Eskimo Village of Elim, Alaska;

“(C) in 1929, 50,000 acres of land were deleted from the Norton Bay Reservation by Executive Order.

“(D) the lands were deleted from the Reservation for the benefit of others;

“(E) the deleted lands were not available to the Native inhabitants of Elim under subsection (b) of this section at the time of passage of this Act;

“(F) the deletion of these lands has been and continues to be a source of deep concern to the indigenous people of Elim; and

“(G) until this matter is dealt with, it will continue to be a source of great frustration and sense of loss among the shareholders of the Elim Native Corporation and their descendants.

“(2) WITHDRAWAL.—The lands depicted and designated ‘Withdrawal Area’ on the map dated October 19, 1999, along with their legal descriptions, on file with the Bureau of Land Management, and entitled ‘Land Withdrawal Elim Native Corporation’, are hereby withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation or disposition under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, for a period of 2 years from the date of enactment of this subsection, for selection by the Elim Native Corporation (hereinafter referred to as ‘Elim’).

“(3) AUTHORITY TO SELECT AND CONVEY.—Elim is authorized to select in accordance with the rules set out in this paragraph, 50,000 acres of land (hereinafter referred to as ‘Conveyance Lands’) within the boundary of the Withdrawal Area described in paragraph (2). The Secretary is authorized and directed